

The Library Connection online newsletter provides the public with information about upcoming events, major programs and other news of the City of San Diego Public Library. Anyone can sign up for this free monthly email announcement by visiting the Library on the City's web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library> and clicking on "News & Events."

**JUNE 2004**

**VOLUME 2**



*Pianist Endre Hegedüs, who performs June 1 at the Scripps Miramar Ranch Branch Library, has performed around the world and released several CDs.*

## Hungarian Pianist Endre Hegedüs to Perform Works by Liszt and Bartók

Internationally-acclaimed Hungarian pianist Endre Hegedüs will perform works by Franz Liszt and Bela Bartók on Tuesday, June 1, at 7:30 p.m. at the Scripps Miramar Ranch Branch Library, 10301 Scripps Lake Drive.

Hegedüs has toured throughout Europe, Asia, North America and Australia. His performance at the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library will be his first appearance in San Diego.

He graduated from the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, Hungary in 1980. Currently he is a professor of piano at the Franz Liszt University.

Endre Hegedüs has received prizes at 10 international piano competitions, including first prizes at the Rina Sala Gallo in Monza and at the Rachmaninov International Piano Competition in Morcone, Italy, and second prizes at the International Piano Competition in Sydney, Australia and the Dino Ciani Competition of the Milan Scala in Italy. In 1999, the Steinway Center New York conferred on him the title "Steinway Artist." That same year he was chosen in England among the best 300 active pianists in the world. In 2000, he was awarded the Franz Liszt Prize by the Minister of Hungarian National Cultural Heritage.

Endre Hegedüs has recorded several CDs, mostly featuring music by Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin, Liszt, Mjaskowsky and Schumann.

The event is free for children under 12 and \$10 for all others. For information about the event, call (858) 538-8158. The program is sponsored by the Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library and the House of Hungary in Balboa Park.

## Lee Stringer to Discuss New Book: "Sleepaway School"

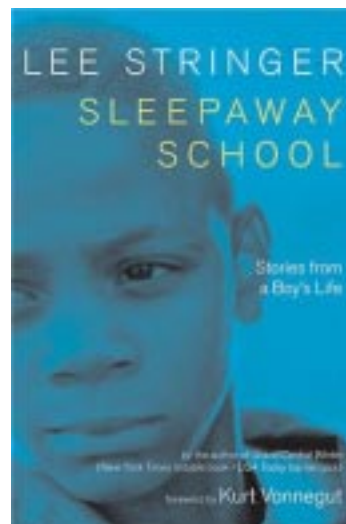
On June 28, the Library will host a book discussion by author Lee Stringer about his new book "Sleepaway School: Stories from a Boy's Life."

The book is a boy-meets-world story that recounts Stringer's years at Hawthorne Cedar Knolls, a school for kids at risk. Like his older brother before him, Stringer is surrendered to foster care shortly after birth by his unwed and underemployed mother – a common practice for unmarried women in mid-century America. Less common was that she returned six years later to reclaim her children. Rather than

leading to a happy ending, though, Stringer's homecoming sets another, more complicated story in motion. The clash of being poor and black in an affluent, largely white New York suburb begins to foment pain and rage which erupts, more often than not, when he is at school. One violent episode results in his expulsion from the sixth grade and his subsequent three-year stint at Hawthorne, the "sleepaway school" of the title.

What follows is an intensely per-

*See "Sleepaway School," Page 3*





*Above is the design for T-shirts for teen participants in the Library's Summer Reading Program. The theme for participants 12 years and younger is "Go for the Gold."*

## School May Soon be Out, But Summer Reading is In!

Summer is a great time to pick up a book and continue to improve reading skills. The Library's annual Summer Reading Program begins June 15 and continues through July 30. The program focuses on both children and teens with sports themes.

For children up to 12 years old, the theme of the program is "Go for the Gold: Read." Kids who read 10 books will receive special prizes, including a sports visor and free admission to the San Diego Aerospace Museum, San Diego Hall of Champions and San Diego Natural History Museum. The program's theme for teens is "Exercise Your Mind: Read." Participants in grades 7-12 can receive prizes for reading books or writing short reviews of library materials and teen programs.

The Library began the annual Summer Reading Program in 1924. The goals of the program are to keep children and teens reading, learning and improving their reading skills and stretching their imaginations during the summer. Reading improves literacy and helps students do better in school. Last year, nearly 26,000 children and teens enrolled in the program. More than 40,000 attended program events. For more details about the free program and how to sign up, contact or visit your local library.

### Author to Present New Collection of Stories

Author Lisa Sandlin will discuss, read from and sign copies of her new collection of stories titled "In the River Province" at the Mira Mesa Branch Library on June 12 at 2 p.m. Winner of a Pushcart Prize and a Dobie Paisano fellowship, Sandlin has two previous story collections, "The Famous Thing About Death" and "Message to the Nurse of Dreams," both from Cinco Puntos Press. Originally from New Mexico and later Texas, Sandlin has taught at Wayne State College in Nebraska since 1997. She keeps a summer home in Santa Fe, N.M.

## Coming Attractions



Each month the Library presents a variety of films, many of which are independent or foreign films that are not widely distributed.

**June 7: "Farmingville"** (2004) – Award-winning documentary that looks at a shocking hate-based attempted murder of two Mexican laborers in a small town on Long Island, N.Y. Central Library, 6:30 p.m.

**June 13: "Without a Trace"** (2000) – A road movie about two women on the run. Winner of Latin American Film Award at Sundance Film Festival. In Spanish with English subtitles. Central Library, 2 p.m.

**June 14: "The Missing Gun"** (2002) – A thriller about a small-town policeman who wakes up to find his gun missing. In Mandarin with English subtitles. Central Library, 6:30 p.m.

**June 25: "On Golden Pond"** (1981) – Henry Fonda and Katherine Hepburn received Academy Awards for their performances in this film. Mission Valley Branch, 7 p.m.

**June 27: "Born Romantic"** (2001) – Bittersweet comedy about lonely hearts in London struggling with the quest of love. Central Library, 2 p.m.

**June 28: "Japanese Story"** (2003) – An Australian geologist finds herself stuck on a field trip to the Pilbara desert with a Japanese man she finds inscrutable, annoying and arrogant. His view of her is not much better. Things go from bad to worse when they become stranded. Central Library, 6:30 p.m.

**June 28: "Stuart Little"** (1999) – A mouse learns to dream big and live large. Combines live action with animation. Tierrasanta Branch, 6 p.m.

**June 29: "War Feels Like War"** (2004) – Documentary about journalists who successfully evade roadblocks and military action to enter the war zone in Iraq. Central Library, 6:30 p.m.

### Local Psychologists to Teach Meditation

Husband and wife team C. Alexander Simpkins, PhD, and Annellen Simpkins, PhD, will provide guided instruction to participants in meditation at the San Carlos Branch Library, 7265 Jackson Drive. The event will be held June 30 at 7 p.m. Drs. Simpkins are San Diego psychologists who specialize in studies of the mind. They have devoted many years to the study of hypnosis and have taught meditation skills to people of all ages. They have also authored several books, including "Tao in Ten," "Principles of Self Hypnosis: Pathways to the Unconscious," "Simple Zen: A Guide to Living Moment by Moment," and "Simple Confucianism: A Guide to Living Virtuously," among others. For more information, call the library at 619-527-3430.



## Special Tours of Central Library Part of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

The public will be treated to a trip back in history and a behind-the-scenes look at the Central Library with special tours three times a week throughout June. The free tours are part of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Central Library and will be conducted at 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and 3 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

“These tours will provide participants a better understanding of the depth of resources available at the San Diego Public Library, and the Central Library in particular,” said City Library Director Anna Tatár. “I encourage anyone interested in libraries to take advantage of this opportunity.”

Highlights of the tours will include:

- Rare visits to the building’s two basement levels that contain more than 60 percent of the library’s collection.
- Special exhibits that showcase the library’s hidden treasures.
- Historical information about the Central Library and future plans.
- Sneak peeks at how the library has served the public for five decades.

Each tour will be limited to 12 people to allow participants an up-close and personal experience. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 619-236-5817 or by signing up at the Literature Desk of the Central Library, located at 820 E St. in downtown San Diego.

The Central Library opened to the public with great fanfare on June 27, 1954, and a huge crowd turned out for the library’s first day of operation. It replaced the old Carnegie Library that had occupied the same location since 1902. A number of special programs marking the Central



*June 27 will mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Central Library, located at 820 E St. in downtown San Diego.*

Library’s 50th anniversary will be scheduled throughout the year. Check the Library’s Calendar of Events on the City’s Web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library>.

The Central Library is scheduled to be replaced by a new Main Library by 2007 on the block bounded by Park Boulevard and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue and J and K streets. A groundbreaking for the new facility is expected to be held this fall.

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## Call for Local Writers to Participate in Jewish Authors Celebration; Deadline is June 18

Authors are being sought to participate in the inaugural local Jewish authors celebration, co-sponsored by the City of San Diego Public Library.

This year’s event is titled “Jewish Creativity – Reflected by the Written Word.” The event will be held Oct. 10 at the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center in La Jolla.

Co-sponsors include the Samuel & Rebecca Astor Judaica Library at the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, San Diego County Library and San Diego Association of Jewish Libraries. The event is free and open to the public.

The deadline for entries is Friday, June 18. The criteria for inclusion in the program are:

- Being Jewish,
- Being a resident in San Diego County,
- Author of a book still in print and available for sale.

Participating authors will each be assigned a station where they can meet the public, discuss their work and sign copies of their books.

For information, contact Lauren Berkenstadt of the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center at [laurenb@lfjcc.com](mailto:laurenb@lfjcc.com) or 858-362-1174.

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### ***“Sleepaway School” – continued from page 1***

sonal, American journey: a universal story of childhood where childhood universals are absent. Stringer is the author of the “Grand Central Winter: Stories from the Street” (1998), which has been translated into 18 languages; and, with Kurt Vonnegut, “Like Shaking Hands with God: A Conversation on Writing.” Stringer has contributed to “Empire City: New York Through the Centuries,” “Unholy Ghosts: Writers on Depression,” “The Way Home: Ending Homelessness in America,” “Time Out Book of New York Walks,” and “The Man with the Golden Arm: 50th Anniversary Critical Edition.” The June 28 event will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Central Library, located at 820 E St. Copies of “Sleepaway School: Stories from a Boy’s Life” will be available for purchase and signing.

## Library to Screen Two Special Documentary Films Before They Air on Television

Two new documentary films, "Farmingville" and "War Feels Like War," will be screened in June in the third floor auditorium of the Central Library.

In September 2000, Magdaleno Escamilla, 28, and Israel Perez, 19, were lured to an abandoned building with the promise of work and then attacked with a crowbar, shovel and knife by two white men. This shocking hate-based attempted murder of two Mexican day laborers catapulted Farmingville, a small Long Island town, into national headlines, unmasking a new front line in the borders war: suburbia. For nearly a year, filmmakers Carlos Sandoval and Catherine Tambini lived and worked in Farmingville, N.Y., so they could capture firsthand the stories of residents, day laborers and activists on all sides of the debate. The film won a Special Jury Prize at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival. Offered in conjunction with the San Diego Latino Film Festival, **"Farmingville"** will be shown on Monday, June 7 at 6:30 p.m.



**"War Feels Like War"** is the story of an international group of journalists who refused to be "embedded" during the war in Iraq. Motivated by the desire to get the "real" story, they ventured onto the battlefield without military protection and frequently without guides. They often found themselves reporting the stories that went uncovered in the wake of the triumphal columns of soldiers and embeds: civilian deaths, injuries, chaos in the streets and a more mixed reception for the invaders than appeared in first reports. The film records their frustration, fear and horror as they fight their way to Baghdad and reveals the difficulties they experience as they try to return to normal life back home. "War Feels Like War" will be shown Tuesday, June 29 at 6:30 p.m.



Both films will air later this year on the PBS program "POV."

## Library Sponsors Evening of Baseball

The Library is co-sponsoring a fun evening of baseball, food and literature on Tuesday, June 15. For \$75, participants receive dinner, a box ticket to the Padres vs. Tampa Bay Devil Rays game at Petco Park, and a copy of the book "The Golden Game: The Story of California Baseball," by Kevin Nelson. The cost is \$50 for season and mini-season ticket holders. Other event sponsors include the City Club of San Diego, California Historical Society, Committee of 2004, Downtown Partnership, San Diego Hall of Champions and Cubic Corp. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. For reservations, call the City Club of San Diego at 619-687-3580 or email [cityclubofsandiego@prodigy.net](mailto:cityclubofsandiego@prodigy.net).

## Paintings by Local Artist Michael Wheelden on Display at Pacific Beach Library

A solo exhibition of recent paintings by San Diego artist and teacher Michael Wheelden is on display through July 10 at the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library. Wheelden will also discuss his work at a special event on June 19 at 1 p.m.

For the past three decades, Wheelden has focused on vernacular architecture, that is, commonplace neighborhood architecture with no great aspirations to art or design, as the subject of his art. Influenced by modern masters of the urban landscape such as Sheeler, Hopper, Diebenkorn and Hockney, Wheelden first gained recognition with bold, minimalist paintings based on ordinary residences. The artist's latest paintings reflect his interest in vernacular architecture, melding painting and sculpture into complex explorations of color, form and line. These works are characterized by meticulously applied paint, impeccable craftsmanship, and multiple shaped canvases fitting together like three-dimensional puzzles. Wheelden continues to follow his vision of transforming the mundane into the inspired. He demonstrates a grasp of fundamental issues and level of skill that have become increasingly rare attributes in contemporary art.

The Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch is located at 4275 Cass St. Call 858-581-9934 for more information.

## Lectures at Mission Valley Library to Discuss Art Design, the Planet Mars and Comics

The Mission Valley Branch, 2123 Fenton Parkway, will host a series of lectures on a variety of subjects in June.

On June 9, Rich Hawk, an artist, designer, art director and teacher, will discuss **aspects of art design**. To be held from 7 to 9 p.m., the program is being sponsored by the La Jolla Art Association.

On June 21, the Mars Society-San Diego will present **"What's Up on Mars?"** Currently there are three spacecraft in orbit around Mars as well as two rovers on its surface. From 7 to 9 p.m., the society will take a look at what we're learning about our neighboring planet from our robotic explorers.

On June 28, Robert Scott, owner of Comickaze, will explore and review **comic books** and present a surprise comic creator. A question and answer session will follow. The event will take place from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

## Even More Great Events and Programs!

For the very latest information about Library events, exhibits, activities and other programs, visit your local library or check out the Library on the City's web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library>.

